

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1– 17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for providing communication services, which provides a service to a client, in a packet switching communication network, comprising:

providing a first communication component and a second communication component each of which includes a communication software to facilitate communication between the communication components,

the first communication component includes a first service software, which provides a first service the client, and

the second communication component excludes the first service software; initiating, by the first communication component, an activation of the first service software on the second communication component which excludes the first service;

searching for the first service software on the first communication component by the second communication component in response to the initiating;

determining if a hardware of the second communication component meets a requirement for operating the first service software; and

providing communication services in a packet switching communication network formed of components having different hardware and software functionalities for performing different functions, with each of multiple ones of the communication components capable of providing an identical software-controlled service;

enabling the identical software-controlled service in a first of the communication components; and

activating, or updating software pertaining to, the identical first service software in a the second of the communication components by downloading the first service software pertaining to the identical service from a third the first communication component to the second communication component, wherein the software controls a service selected from the group consisting of: a gateway functionality enabling communication between the packet-switching

~~communication network and a component in a circuit switching network; a voicemail server service, and an address server service.~~

19 - 23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first communication component ~~in the communication network~~ has been provided with a most up-to-date release for operation thereon and for downloading to other components of the first service software.

25 -29. (canceled)

30. (new) A method for updating a service software, which provides a service to a client, in a communication network comprising:

providing a first communication component, a second communication component and a third communication component each of which includes a communication software to facilitate communication between the communication components,

the first and the second communication components include an identical service software which provides a service the client,, and

the second communication component excludes the identical service software and includes a different service software;

searching, by the first communication component, the second and third communication components to identify which of the searched communication components includes the identical service software;

comparing release information of the identical service software of the first communication component with each release information of the identified communication components to determine a more-up-to date identical service software; and

when the comparing indicates that the more-up-to-date identical service software is not the first communication component, initiating a software update of identical service software at the first communication component with the more-up-to date identical service software.

31. (previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein the searching and the comparing is repeated at settable time intervals.

32. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein the searching and the comparing are initiated in response to the client requesting the service.

33. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein
when the identical service software is used frequently, the searching and the comparing is repeated at settable time intervals, and
when the identical service software is used infrequently, the searching and the comparing is initiated in response to the client requesting the service.

34. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein the client is a telephony device.

35. (new) The method of Claim 34, wherein the client is a VOIP telephone.

36. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein the identical service software is selected from the group consisting of: a gateway functionality enabling communication between a packet switching communication network and a component in a circuit switching network; a voicemail server service, and an address server service.

37. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein each of the communication components determines which service software is included by the respective component.

38. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein the searching includes:
initiating a search message, which includes information regarding the identical service software, to be sent to the second and the third communication components, and
receiving, by the first communication component, a response from the only the second communication component being a communication component including the identical service software.

39. (new) The method of Claim 18, wherein the first service software controls a service selected from the group consisting of: a gateway functionality enabling communication between the packet switching communication network and a component in a circuit switching network; a voicemail server service, and an address server service.

40. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the searching repeated at settable time intervals.

41. (new) The method of Claim 18, wherein the searching is initiated in response to the client requesting the first service.

42. (new) The method of Claim 18, wherein the client is a telephony device.

43. (new) The method of Claim 42, wherein the client is a VOIP telephone.

44. (new) The method of Claim 18, wherein each of the communication components determines which service software is included by the respective component.